



HYKON ROSE CLOVER

Trifolium hirtum (*Trifolium* means *three-leaved*; *hirtum* may refer to *hairiness*.)

Why it Was Chosen to Reseed Wildfire Burned Areas:

- Rose clover is a legume, and like all legumes, enriches the soil through its capacity to “fix” soil nitrogen in a form that is useful to plants. While grasses with their spreading root system are better at anchoring soil, legumes with their soil enriching capacity help those grasses maintain themselves. They represent the “turf builder” homeowners might add to grass-seeded lawns.
- It is a winter-growing annual and reasonable well adapted to California coastal areas, inland valleys, and Sierra foothills.

How Much to Use:

On wildfire burn areas, use a broadcast seeding rate of 9 pounds per acre (2.0 pounds for a 10,000 square foot area).

It is always used as part of a mixture and needs to be inoculated with the proper *Rizobia* bacteria.

When using pre-inoculated, coated seed (also referred to as pellet inoculated seed), increase the rate to 13.5 pounds per acre (3.0 pounds for a 10,000 square foot area).

Other Uses in California

Rose clover's principle use is in seeding dryland pasture, where it spurs the growth of range grasses and increases the nutritional value (nitrogen content) of the forage.

Cover crop in vineyards.

Restores roadsides and disturbed sites.

Game and deer browse on the nutritious foliage in winter and spring, several bird species eat the seeds.

Background:

Rose clover was introduced in 1944 from Turkey. The Natural Resources Conservation Service and the University of California Agricultural Experiment Station have tested and released many varieties. Hykon is one of the earliest maturing and survives on poorer soils.

Insight for Homeowners:

After it matures, rose clover can be mowed if desired. It will naturally disintegrate faster than grass plants.

What it Looks Like



Rose clover, like its clover relatives, has a trifoliate leaf, in this case covered with short, stiff hairs. It grows from 3-24 inches tall, and sports 3/4-inch globular rose-colored flower heads; each of the 20-30 “filaments” in the head is botanically a separate flower, capable of producing a seed.

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